

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY: EUR/ NE: JPOWENS

APPROVED BY: EUR: WJSTOESSEL, JR.

EUR/ NE: SGEORGE

EUR RPM- LTC HBODENHAMER (SUBS)

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INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 049337

C O R R E C T E D COPY (OMISSION IN PARA 3 LINE 2)

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI DA

SUBJECT: DANISH DEFENSE REORGANIZATION

1. WHILE CALLING ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY STOESSEL TO DISCUSS OTHER MATTERS, DANISH AMBASSADOR BARTELS RAISED THE QUESTION OF THE REORGANIZATION OF THE DANISH DEFENSE FORCES. ACCORDING TO BARTELS, THE DANISH DEFENSE MINISTER HAD BEEN ABLE TO ACHIEVE THE SUPPORT OF ALL PARTIES FOR A DEFENSE PROGRAM WHICH WAS A MARKED IMPROVEMENT OVER THE PREVIOUS PLAN. NEVERTHELESS, DESPITE THIS INCREASED EFFORT ON THE PART OF THE DANISH GOVERNMENT, THE COMMENTS OF NATO'S DEFENSE PLANNING COMMITTEE HAVE BEEN HIGHLY CRITICAL OF THE NEW PROGRAM.

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2. CONTINUING, BARTELS SAID HE THOUGHT IT UNLIKELY THAT THE DANISH GOVERNMENT WOULD ALTER SUBSTANTIALLY ITS DEFENSE PROGRAM. HE NOTED THAT GERMAN CHANCELLOR BRANDT HAD TOLD THE DANES THAT WHILE HE DID NOT LIKE CERTAIN ASPECTS OF DANISH DEFENSE POLICY, HE NEVERTHELESS THOUGHT IT LIKELY THAT IN A FEW YEARS GERMANY WOULD BE MOVING IN THE SAME DIRECTION.

3. BARTELS THEN WENT ON TO SET FORTH THE DANISH RATIONALE FOR ITS DEFENSE POLICY. HE SAID DANISH PRIORITIES ARE DIFFERENT FROM THOSE OF U. S. NATURALLY, DENMARK DOES NOT FACE THE SAME DEMANDS AS THOSE PLACED ON THE U. S. IN ITS ROLE AS LEADER OF THE WESTERN WORLD. HOWEVER, HE NOTED THAT DENMARK SPENDS A GREATER PERCENTAGE OF ITS GNP FOR AID TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES THAN THE U. S. DOES; WHILE DENMARK IS DEVOTING CLOSE TO ONE PERCENT OF ITS GNP TO THE LDC' S, THE U. S. IS GIVING AROUND 0.5 OR EVEN LESS TO THIS AREA. FURTHERMORE, SOCIAL WELFARE IS A MATTER OF THE HIGHEST PRIORITY TO THE DANES, WHEREAS THE U. S. APPEARS TO BE CUTTING BACK ON THE PUBLIC SECTOR OF ITS ECONOMY. OF COURSE, BARTELS CONCLUDED, THE U. S., AS WELL AS THE BRITISH AND GERMANS, COULD COUNTER THAT IT IS NECESSARY FOR DENMARK TO DO A CERTAIN MINIMUM IN THE DEFENSE SECTOR IF IT IS TO BE ASSISTED IN TIME OF NEED.

4. IN REPLY, STOESSEL SAID THAT THERE IS ALSO THE CONSIDERATION OF THE ADVERSE IMPACT OF DANISH RETRENCHMENT ON THE TOTAL DEFENSE EFFORT OF THE ALLIANCE AND ON THE U. S. CONGRESS. A REDUCED EFFORT BY THE DANES COULD CONTRIBUTE TO UNDERMINING SUPPORT FOR THIS COMMON DEFENSE EFFORT.

5. AFTER LISTENING TO STOESSEL' S COMMENTS, BARTELS SAID HE HAD RAISED WITH DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE EAGLEBURGER THE DESIRABILITY OF A VISIT BY DANISH DEFENSE MINISTER OLESEN TO THE U. S. SUCH A VISIT WOULD ENABLE OLESEN TO QUOTE FACE THE MUSIC QUOTE, I. E., TO GET A FIRST-HAND IMPRESSION OF THE ATMOSPHERE PREVAILING IN THE U. S. AND TO SEE WHAT THE AMERICANS ARE DOING IN THE DEFENSE SECTOR. IT IS DIFFICULT TO CONCEIVE OF THE WORLD- WIDE U. S. EFFORTS UNLESS ONE SEES THEM AT FIRST HAND, BARTELS OBSERVED; EVEN A VISIT TO THE PENTAGON, THE QUOTE NERVE
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CENTER QUOTE OF U. S. DEFENSE POLICY, WOULD BE VALUABLE FOR

ITS IMPACT ON OLESEN, HE CONCLUDED.

6. STOESEL REPLIED THAT IDEA OF VISIT BY DEFENSE
MINISTER WOULD CERTAINLY BE GIVEN SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION
BY THE USG. ROGERS

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